

# EPCC NEWS

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www.epcckids.com  
Evansville Psychiatric Children's Center  
"Shaping Kids' Lives"

## SAMHSA Grant Activities Get Underway

The recently awarded three-year SAMHSA grant to facilitate the reduction of seclusion and restraint is keeping Superintendent Lottie Cook busy with the initial activities required to set things in motion. Since the grant is in collaboration with Richmond State Hospital, all plans involve both facilities. The kickoff planning meeting was held September 28, 2007 and several actions must be taken immediately between now and the end of December.

Contract requests have been submitted to the State for Key Consumer Group to do Roadmap to Recovery training, for Girls and Boys Town (psychoeducational model) to tailor a program for the EPCC population and provide intensive training and consultation, and for a project manager.

Recruitment is underway for a Project Manager to oversee grant activities and collaborate with a Performance Improvement Team which will include consumers, parents, and referral sources among its participants.

Plans are also being finalized with videoconferencing resources through Ivy Tech so that parents around the state can videoconference with EPCC staff and their child rather than having to travel to Evansville for each contact.

## Long-Term Employees Honored

Thirty-five year EPCC employee Tamara Klausmeier, QI Coordinator, attended the Governor's Long-Term Employee Reception on August 29. The reception honored state employees with 35 or more years of continuous service. (Honorees must be at a 5-year mark, i.e., 35, 40, etc.)

In addition, Superintendent Lottie Cook held a reception at EPCC to honor Tamara and other long-term employees: Jason Day, Maintenance Supervisor-30 years, Pam Dewey, Behavioral Clinician-25 years, Carolyn Eastwood, Psychiatric Attendant-20 years, Bonnie Wilson, Psychiatric Attendant-20 years, and Tony Todd, Maintenance Repairperson-20 years.



Tamara Klausmeier (r.) with Lottie Cook, Supt. (l.)

## Birthdays and Bulletin Boards

These may seem to be unrelated topics, but in fact they both focus on the individual children living at EPCC. Staff constantly update the bulletin boards to reflect current events and the children's direct involvement.

Birthdays are a big event for all children. At EPCC, the birthday child gets to plan the day's menu (with a little help from Dietary staff who also make a special birthday cake to order). The children are always excited to claim the menu choices and to see their cake decorated just the way they envisioned it.

Bulletin boards on both the dorms and in the school usually include each child in the displayed theme. For example, during Red Ribbon Week, a large monkey under the theme "Don't Monkey Around with Drugs," is surrounded by bananas – each with a child's name. One dorm board has a school bus with each child's face in a window.

The boards are also used to correlate with seasons and current programs. For example, during the summer program CircusFit, each day's posted word was an integral part of the weekly theme and that day's activity.

# Occupational Therapy

Due to the many sensory issues we are seeing with our children, we have added an occupational therapy position. This position is unique to us and can provide clear assessments and follow up on special needs. The position can also provide expert consultation to other staff, assisting with therapeutic approaches that may be more beneficial to the individual client. **Any OT trained person interested in the OT position** should inquire by calling the Superintendent at 812-477-6436 x231.

## Creative Therapies

In addition to play, sand tray, and art therapies, EPCC has utilized other types of creative therapies to enhance the treatment program.

Animal-assisted therapy includes therapeutic horseback riding and other pet visitors for such activities as "reading to pets." This contact promotes respect for another living being and often boosts self-esteem.

Programs at the YMCA are also utilized. Swim group and Hip Hop class are two of the favorites. Both strengthen coordination, build on the child's motor skills, and encourage appropriate social skills.

## New Clinical Director

Pam Dewey Pugh, known as Ms. Dewey, has been promoted to the position of Clinical Director. Ms. Dewey has been with EPCC for 25 years. She started as a psychiatric attendant on the dorm and after earning her master's in psychology, moved into the therapy department doing therapy with the children and their families.

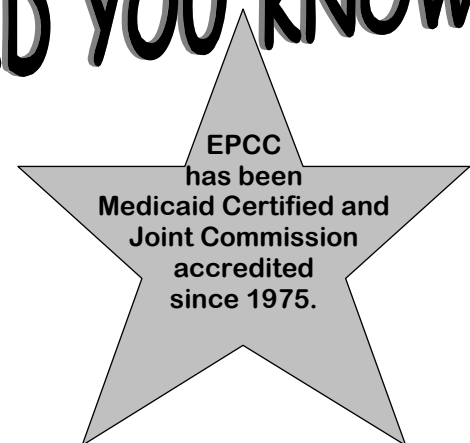
She is well qualified to direct the clinical program because of her experience, knowledge, and creativity in program development.

She plans to visit several MHCs in the coming year.

**Need to contact us?**  
**Call 812-477-6436 (exts. listed below) or email.**

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## DID YOU KNOW...



### We're Ready for Your Referrals

Refer through the assigned liaison from your MHC.  
Referral information needed in the referral packet includes:

Psychology Eval with IQ  
2-page State Hospital Referral Form  
CANS  
Psychiatric Evaluation

**Contact Sharon Austin at 812-477-6436, X226**

### MISSION

**Resolve Needs – Build Strengths**

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